

The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

March, 2008

In the News

10th Annual Jerry Malloy Conference

Revisited

The final numbers are in for the 2007 Malloy conference. Revenue generated by the conference provided funds, books, or scholarships to the following organizations:

- [Center for Negro League Baseball Research](#)
- [Grave markers for Leon Ruffin and Joe Lewis](#)
- [Norfolk State University Libraries](#)
- [Old Dominion University Libraries](#)
- [Portsmouth Public Libraries](#)
- [Portsmouth Sports Club Foundation](#)
- [Virginia Sports Hall of Fame & Museum Scholarship](#)

Application for the VSHFM scholarship can be downloaded at <http://vshfm.com/>

We would like to thank our 26 sponsors and anonymous donors (too numerous to list) and Tom Garrett's team for making this conference a tremendous success.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The dates for the 2008 Malloy Conference have been changed to July 24-27. Lock in those calendar dates NOW.

Buck O'Neil to get a statue

A permanent life-size bronze statue of **Buck O'Neil** will be dedicated in the National Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum in Cooperstown, NY during the Hall of Fame Weekend in 2008. The statue is being created by nationally renowned sculptor William Behrends of Tryon, NC. Behrends' resume includes statues of **Willie Mays**,

Juan Marichal and **Willie McCovey** at

San Francisco's AT&T Park, **Tony Gwynn** at San Diego's PETCO Park and the 8-foot high **Jackie Robinson/Pee Wee Resse**

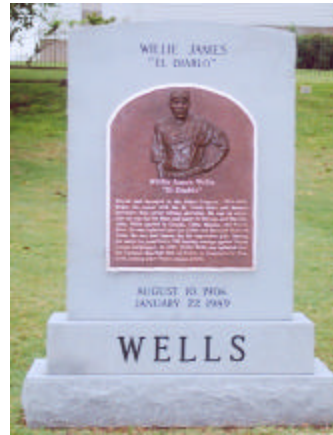
monument at KeySpan Park,

home of the Brooklyn Cyclones in Coney Island.



Willie "The Devil" Wells Honored

On November 9th in Houston, TX, the TEXAS BASEBALL HALL OF FAME inducted one of the top Negro League



shortstops. Along with Wells, Phil Garner, who managed the Astros to their only World Series berth in 2005, Astro centerfielder Cesar Cedeno, Don Baylor, Juan Gonzalez, and pioneer broadcaster Anita Martini were inducted. Martini was the nation's first woman sports anchor in the 1970s. **Willie Wells** was inducted into the

Cooperstown Hall of Fame in 1997.

Call for Papers: Black Ball Journal

McFarland & Company is gearing up to publish the first bi-annual **Black Ball**, a peer-reviewed journal with emphasis on original research. The journal will promote the study of Negro Leagues and pre-Negro Leagues baseball, with a focus on their role in the popular black culture.

Black Ball welcomes articles on all subjects related to black baseball, major or minor leagues, barnstorming, segregation and integration, the business of black baseball, the teams and the players. A wide range of disciplinary and academic perspectives are welcome.

Articles should be between 2,000-7,000 words, exclusive of the required endnotes and abstract and should be submitted to the Editor as both double-spaced hard copy and a disk, or as an email attachment in Microsoft Word. Editorial decisions will be made within 60 days of receiving your manuscript.

The Deadline is March 31st.

Submit your papers to Dr. Leslie Heaphy, Kent State University, 6000 Frank Road, North Canton, OH 44720 or email: LHeaphy@kent.edu

Research Finds:

1) Historian Lucky Smith recently located two new players; **Beaugard (B.G.) Stephens** in Alabama and **James Tillman** in Maryland. Stephens pitched for the 1955, 1959 Kansas City Monarchs, while Tillman was a third-string catcher for the 1941-42 Homestead Grays.

2) Last quarter, former Blues singer and Negro League historian Blind Willie Wayne Stivers reported perhaps the first perfect game thrown by a Negro League pitcher against a Major League team. According to a



Washington Post article on July 19, 1914, **Jose Acosta** of the Long Branch (NJ) Cubans walked none, gave up no hits and shut out the St. Louis Browns en route to a 3 to 0 victory.

To the contrary, two fellow SABRites Brian McKenna and David Skinner reported that

Acosta's perfect game was not perfect. It appears it was a two-hitter. See the actual box score on the left from the *Long Branch Daily Record*.

Skinner also reports that Acosta won 8 of 10 games against Major League opponents from 1912 to 1916.

The search continues for a box score of the first perfect game by a Negro League pitcher against a Major League team.

The score:

LONG BRANCH—	ab.	r.	h.	p.o.	a.	e.
Romanach, ss.	4	1	2	0	2	0
Calvo, cf.	2	0	0	7	0	0
Aragon, 3b.	3	0	1	1	3	0
Viola, lf.	4	0	2	1	0	0
Padron, rf.	4	0	1	1	0	0
Hungo, 2b.	3	0	0	0	1	0
Baranda 1b.	3	1	2	1	0	0
Jiminez, c.	3	1	1	6	1	0
Acosta, p.	3	0	0	0	3	0
Totals	29	3	10	27	10	0

ST. LOUIS—	ab.	r.	h.	p.o.	a.	e.
Miller, ab.	3	0	0	1	2	0
Ware, 3b. ss.	4	0	0	1	6	0
Walker, cf.	3	0	0	3	0	0
Leary, c, 1b.	3	0	0	9	0	0
Howard, 1b, 3b.	3	0	0	5	0	0
Lavan, ss.	1	0	0	1	0	0
Jenkins, c.	2	0	1	3	0	1
Crossin, lf.	3	0	0	0	0	0
Aron, rf.	3	0	0	1	0	0
Hoch, p.	3	0	1	0	3	0
Totals	28	0	2	34	11	1

Two-base hits—Calvo, Barranda, Romanach, Viola. Sacrifice hits—Calvo 2, Miller, Aragon. Stolen bases—Aragon, Barranda, Padron, Jiminez. Double plays—Hoch to Ware to Leary. Struck out—by Hoch 2; by Acosta 5. Earned runs—Long Branch 3. Left on bases—Long Branch 5; St. Louis 2. Time of game 1h. 40m. Umpire Phelan.

3) Somehow, Blind Willie Wayne and Dr. Layton Revel located six former Negro League players since our last edition: **J.W. Pirtle**, a pitcher for the 1949-51 Houston-New Orleans Eagles; **Jonathan Clyde Parris**, a first baseman for the 1946-49, Louisville Buckeyes, Philadelphia Stars and the Baltimore Elite Giants; **Johnny Banks**, a pitcher for the 1950 Philadelphia Stars; **William "Billy" Nicholas**, a pitcher for the 1935-36 Brooklyn and Newark Eagles, **Ray Holmes**, and finally, **Sam Fulton** who pitched for the 1955 Birmingham Black Barons. This brings our total to more than 225 living players.

4) Recently, SABRite Skip Nipper from Mount Juliet, TN, found the Incorporation papers for the **Nashville Elite Giants** (in 1920) and the **Baltimore Elite Giants** (in 1941) from the state of Tennessee. Both documents are signed by Tom Wilson et al.

Research Requests:

1) Joe Niese is working on a visual project about pitcher **George "Lefty" Wilson** (1875-1915) and needs photographs and biographical information. He is also trying to locate the 2004 SABR presentation: *"But Few Can Touch Him: George Wilson and Integrated Wisconsin Baseball, 1905-1907"* by Jeff Sackmann. You can contact Joe at joeniese@yahoo.com.

2) Bob Bailey at bobbailey@cox.net or 10233 SW 49th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32608, is looking for photographs of player gravesites. Help out one of our best biographical researchers.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The dates for the 2008 Malloy Conference have been changed to July 24-27. Lock in those calendar dates NOW. Help celebrate the 75th anniversary of Chicago's **East-West All-Star Classic**. Go to <http://www.larrylester42.com/jerry-malloy-negro-leagues-conference/> for more information and Registration Form. Contact the site coordinator **Eddie Bedford** at ebedford@emich.edu for details, ideas and donations. ❖



812 Huron Rd E #719

Cleveland OH 44115

info@sabr.org

Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

MARCH

- 1ST - VERNELL JACKSON - 78
2ND - FELIX GUILBE - 84; CARLOS SANTIAGO - 82; SONNY SMITH - 81
4TH - CHARLES MIDDLEBROOK - 72
5TH - BERNARD FERNANDEZ - 90
7TH - JAMES WOODS - 74; ANDY PORTER - 97
11TH - BOB MOTLEY - 85
12TH - BEE BOP GORDON - 83
13TH - LEROY HANCOCK - 77
15TH - ALBERT JEFFCOAT - 76; CHARLIE DAVIS - 81
18TH - CHARLIE PRIDE - 73; EZELL KING - 78
19TH - WILLIE LEE - 73
20TH - GEORGE ALTMAN - 75
21ST - BENNY RODRIQUEZ - 81
22ND - GEORGE CROWE - 87
29TH - SIDNEY BUNCH - 77
31ST - MEL DUNCAN - 79



APRIL

- 4TH - JOSE PILOTO - 82
5TH - MARVIN PRICE - 76
6TH - HAL HAIRSTON - 86
15TH - J.C. HARTMAN - 74
16TH - JOHN GIBBONS - 86
18TH - JIM ZAPP - 84
23RD - CHUCK HARMON - 84; GENE SMITH - 91
25TH - JERRY BENNETT - 87; SAM ALLEN - 72
26TH - BUDDY WILLIAMS - 94
27TH - TONY LLOYD - 72
30TH - JOE DOUSE - 78

MAY

- 1ST - PIANO RED WALKER - 76
6TH - WILLIE MAYS - 77
9TH - CARL LONG - 73
13TH - JESSIE MITCHELL - 74; J.W. WINGATE - 79
17TH - GENE SCRUGGS - 70; IRVIN CASTILLE - 82
18TH - SUPERMAN PENNINGTON - 85
19TH - BERT SIMMONS - 84
22ND - GEORGE SPRIGGS - 71; MAURICE PEATROS - 69
25TH - LARRY LEGRANDE - 69; CURLEY WILLIAMS - 83
27TH - MACK PRIDE - 76
29TH - HAROLD HAIR - 76; ROBERTO VARGAS - 79

NOTE: *The Courier* apologizes for missing James Robinson's birthday of January 21st. He is 77 years old. **Happy Birthday Mr. Robinson!**

Sunsets:



LEE MABON died February 1, 2007 in Memphis, TN. Mabon was a shortstop for the 1958-60 Indianapolis Clowns.

ELMER KNOX died November 13 in Atlanta, GA. Knox was a utility player, from 1943-49, for the Atlanta Black Crackers and the Jacksonville Red Caps.

WILLIE "BOJACK" CURRY died December 18 in Birmingham, AL. Curry was a catcher for the 1954-55 Louisville Clippers and the Birmingham Black Barons.

WILLIAM "SONNY" WEBB, JR., died December 30, in Cincinnati, OH. He was 72 years old. Webb played for the 1958 Detroit Clowns along side Goose Tatum and others.

Larry Whiteside, journalist, 1937-2007

Lawrence W. Whiteside, or "Sides," the first African American Hall of Fame voter (1980), died on June 15 of complications from Parkinson's disease. This summer he will be honored by the Cooperstown Hall of Fame as the winner of the **J.G. Taylor Spink Award** which is given "for meritorious contributions to baseball writing."

He is the third African American recipient of the Spink Award following Wendell Smith in 1993 and Sam Lacy in 1997. Earlier, in 1999, he received the National Association of Black Journalist (NABJ) Sports Task Force's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Whiteside wrote for the *Kansas City Kansan* (1959-63), the *Milwaukee Journal* (1963-73) and the *Boston Globe* (1973-2004).

In 1971, Whiteside started *The Black List* to help sports editors find qualified black journalists to hire. Initially *The Black List* only had nine names, but by 1983 it had expanded to more than 90.

This trailblazer was an expert on Negro league baseball, he was part of the panel that chose the Major League Baseball All-Century Team in 1999.

To learn more . . .  this man!

Official websites of former Negro Leaguers:

Josh Gibson

<http://www.joshgibson.org/>



Minnie Minoso

<http://minosocom.com/>



Buck Leonard

<http://www.buckleonard.org>

Satchel Paige

<http://www.satchelpaige.com/>



Jackie Robinson

<http://www.jackierobinson.com>



Roy Campanella

<http://www.roycampanella.com/index.php>



<http://www.leondayfoundation.org/>

Leon Day



Monte Irvin

<http://www.cmgww.com/baseball/irvin/>

John Henry "Pop" Lloyd

<http://www.popsballyard.org>

Ted Toles

<http://www.tedtolesjr.com/index.html>

Reginald Howard

<http://www.toostrong.net/howard/>

Are you aware of any other websites for N.L. players? Let us know, thanks.

Library Checkouts!

South of the Color Barrier by John Virtue and Foreword by Monte Irvin. This is the story of how Mexican multi-millionaire businessman Jorge Pasquel and the Mexican League hastened the integration of Major League baseball. It highlights almost 150 players from the Negro Leagues who played in Mexico.

We Are The Ship by award-winning illustrator Kadir Nelson. Foreword is by Hank Aaron. This is a must for your library and coffee table. Breathtaking artistic works of black baseball's favorite performers with emotional first person narratives are abundant. It could be this year's most popular book.



In Memory of

Richard J. "Dick" Thompson, ? - 2008

Thompson was working on compiling pitching data for **Bill "Cannonball" Jackman**. His research found 219 victories and 97 losses for Jackman, who played from 1918 to 1953, with Lincoln (NY) Giants, Philadelphia Giants, Quaker Giants, Brooklyn Eagles, Boston Royal Giants, Newark Eagles and other teams.

Dr. William John (Bill) Kirwin, 1937 – 2007.

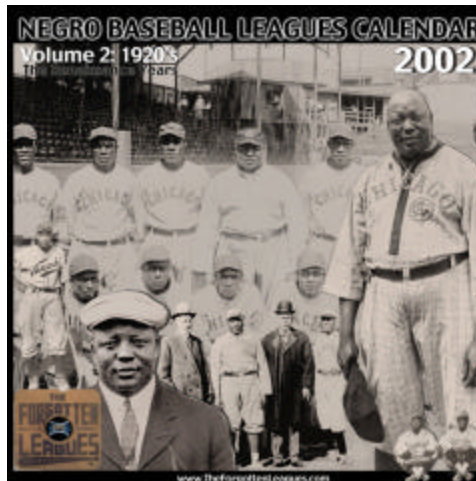
Kirwin was author of *"Out of the Shadows: American Baseball from the Cuban Giants to Jackie Robinson"* a collection of articles. He was also editor of *NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture*, which covered the cultural and historical implications of American's national pastime. Kirwin was professor emeritus of social work from the University of Calgary-Edmonton.

Call for Papers: 2008 Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference

This is the last call for papers for our 11th annual conference. The response has been tremendous, but we have a few slots available. Proposals are due by **March 31st** with topics related to the East-West All-Star Classic, the North-South game, players, managers, highlights and lowlights, record breaking performances, etc. Abstracts should be no more than 350 words with a very brief curriculum vitae. Graduate students are encouraged to submit proposals.

Submit your papers to Dr. Leslie Heaphy at:

LHeaphy@kent.edu



Andrew "Rube" Foster Night

The Lorain Parks & Recreation Department is hosting the first annual "**Andrew 'Rube' Foster Night**" on Saturday, April 12 at the Pipe Yard Stadium, on 2840 Meister Road, Lorain, Ohio, about 30 miles west of Cleveland.

The event includes a day full of youth league baseball games leading to the feature contest between Lorain Admiral King High School and Lorain South View High. The respective teams will wear commemorative uniforms of the **Homestead Grays** and the **Chicago American Giants**.

Players expected to attend include **Ernie Nimmons** (1952 Indy Clowns), **Bobby Sanders** (1957-59, Birmingham Black Barons and Memphis Red Sox), **Chuck Bruton** (1950 Cleveland Buckeyes).

The organization expects to award a scholarship in honor of Foster. Contact Jim Kudrin, Recreation Superintendent at 440-244-9900 for more information.

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SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

Larry Lester Co-chair, Editor
Dick Clark Co-chair (Tstearnes@comcast.net)

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